Accountability Report 2002-2003
Sydney Tar Ponds Agency

Mission
To focus Nova Scotia's efforts in the Muggah Creek watershed cleanup project, and to make the most effective use of provincial resources in cooperation with government and community partners.

Strategic Goals
STPA's strategic goals are:

- In the capacity of lead agency, within the framework of the funding agreement between government partners and community stakeholders, implement projects and initiatives in the pursuit of the cleanup of the Muggah Creek watershed at the direction of the Executive Committee;

- On behalf of Nova Scotia, engage government partners in the negotiation of a renewed funding agreement for the cleanup of the Muggah Creek watershed;

- Communicate effectively with the public, both directly and through the media, about steps being taken to clean up the Muggah Creek watershed, and co-ordinate these communications with affected provincial departments and agencies, other government partners, and other JAG community stakeholders;

- Effectively deploy and co-ordinate provincial resources in the Muggah Creek watershed cleanup and where appropriate the decommissioning of the Sydney steel plant, in particular through Sydney Environmental Resources Limited (SERL), a Nova Scotia Crown corporation; and

- Optimize the working interface between government partners and community stakeholders in the cleanup of the Muggah Creek watershed and Sydney steel plant.

Priorities

1. **Contract Management**
   - Actively participate in and facilitate the executive decision-making process as part of the funding agreement between government partners and community stakeholders respecting the Muggah Creek watershed clean-up.

   - Have and continue to participate in executive decision making process. The agency chairs the Executive Committee for the Federal Provincial funding agreement. The Memorandum of Understanding with the community stakeholder group (JAG) expired on September 18, 2003.

   - In the capacity of lead agency, initiate and frame projects for which Nova Scotia has

contract responsibility.

- Have and continue to act as contracting agency for most major capital contracts. Cost Share Agreement is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2004.

- Cause projects to be implemented in a timely manner in keeping with agreed upon schedules.

- Most projects are now in their final implementation stages.

2. **Communication**
   - Develop and execute a plan, in co-operation with government partners, for communicating effectively with the public, both directly and through the media, about steps being taken to clean up the Muggah Creek watershed.

   - Communication plan has been developed and for the most part, been successfully executed. This has lead to the community being able to consider remediation options and make a final recommendation to governments.

   - Have successfully participated in the communication advisory group and the public education program. With the expiry of the JAG MOU, work has begun on a new community liaison model for the next implementation phase of the Muggah Creek Clean-up. Terms of Reference have been prepared and public advertising for membership is underway.

   - Initiate, monitor, and respond to media coverage of issues relating to the Muggah Creek watershed clean-up.

   - Respond to media issues relating to the project.

3. **Funding**
   - Engage government partners in negotiations for the purpose of producing a second generation funding agreement for the clean-up of the Muggah Creek Watershed.

   - With the pending expiry of the present Federal/Provincial funding agreement on March 31, 2004, the Province is awaiting a response from the Federal Government on negotiations for the final Remediation Agreement.

4. **Support to Sydney Environmental Resources Limited**
   - Foster frequent and regular internal communications between SERL, Sydney Tar Ponds Agency, and Sydney Steel Corporation.

   - Continue to liaise with and support SERL with their core business functions. Agency staff and SERL staff have co-located their office space, along with Sydney Steel Corporation.

- Interface with the Board of Directors, SERL and Sysco.

- Continue to work closely with SERL Board of Directors and co-ordinate planning among SERL, Sysco and Sydney Tar Ponds Agency

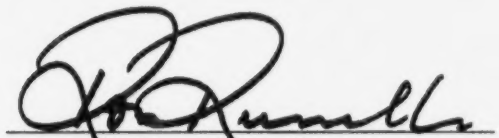
5. **Coordination**
   - Foster frequent and regular internal communication through the implementation of a newly developed, broadly based communications plan.

   - Continue frequently (weekly) STPA/SERL meetings, along with monthly meetings of all Provincial departments and Agencies having involvement in the Muggah Creek issue. As required briefings are provided to Ministers and Cabinets.

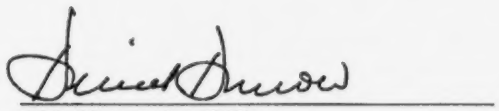
Accountability Report 2002-03
Sydney Tar Ponds Agency

The accountability report of the Sydney Tar Ponds Agency for the year ended March 31, 2003, is prepared pursuant to the Provincial Finance Act and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Sydney Tar Ponds Agency business plan information for the fiscal year 2002-03. The reporting of Sydney Tar Ponds Agency outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments and opinions by Sydney Tar Ponds Agency management.

We acknowledge that this accountability report is the responsibility of the Sydney Tar Ponds Agency management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in Sydney Tar Ponds Agency business plans for the year.



Honourable Ronald Russell
Minister, Department of Transportation of Public Works



Chief Executive Officer
Sydney Tar Ponds Agency